

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES MARCH 2003



In Five of Six Southwest Counties, Unemployment Rates Increase in February

February Local Labor Scene

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **Janesville/Beloit Metropolitan Area** increased in February by 0.3 percentage points. However, the February 2003 rate declined by 0.6 percentage points as compared to the Janesville/Beloit rate Metro rate for February 2002.

The unadjusted unemployment rate for Southwest Wisconsin increased 0.2 percentage points in February, to 7.6 percent. However, the Southwest Wisconsin unadjusted rate fell by 0.5 percentage points compared to last February, on the strength of strong year-to-year decreases in unadjusted unemployment rates in Grant, Richland, and Rock Counties.

consin had lower unemployment than they did one year ago," said DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman.

The highest estimated county unemployment rate for the state was reported in Juneau County, followed by Marquette, Rusk and Menominee counties. The unemployment rate for Juneau was 11.8 percent, while Marquette was 11.5 percent, Rusk was 11.2 percent, and Menominee was 11.0 percent. The State's lowest estimated unemployment rate was Dane County at 3.1 percent, followed by Ozaukee County at 4.4 percent and Waukesha County at 4.9 percent.

The City of Racine had the highest unemployment rate of any Wisconsin jurisdictions for which the Bureau of Labor Statistics provides estimates. The City of Racine's un-

employment rate was estimated at 12.6 percent.

Among Wisconsin's eleven Metropolitan Statistical Areas, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rates were indicative of the mixed results in February's employment figures. Four metro areas showed lower season-

Statewide

Fifty-nine of the state's 72 counties had lower unemployment rates than one year ago, reflecting the lower unemployment rate for the state reported for February 2003, according to information released today by the Department of Workforce Development. In the month of February, which traditionally has the highest unemployment rate of the year in Wisconsin, sixty counties had higher unemployment rates than they had in January, based on the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics "local area unemployment statistics" estimates. Seven counties were unchanged and five had lower estimates for February than they had for January. February is the month for which Wisconsin's unemployment rates are generally the highest of the year.

"It is encouraging to see that, despite the historically normal increases in unemployment in many counties and metropolitan areas last month, the majority of counties across Wis-

consin had lower unemployment rates for February than they had had in January. Four metro areas had higher rates in February than they had had in January, and three were unchanged. In general, counties with a strong presence of durable goods manufacturing had slightly higher rates, while areas with a stronger presence of trade and services had slightly lower or unchanged rates. The southeastern portion of the State continues to experience the most difficult labor markets.

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	Janesville/Beloit MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: Feb 2003			
Civilian Labor Force	79,700	3,105.5	145,857
Employment	74,400	2,940.6	137,408
Unemployment	5,300	164.9	8,450
Unemployment rate	6.6%	5.3%	5.8%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	-300	4.3	19
Employment	-600	6.8	(128)
Unemployment	300	-2.4	148
Unemployment rate	0.3%	-0.1%	0.1%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	500	67.8	1,347
Employment	1,000	75.5	958
Unemployment	-400	-7.6	390
Unemployment rate	-0.6%	-0.4%	0.2%

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.

Southwestern Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

February 2003	Grant	Green	Iowa	Lafayette	Richland	Rock	Region	Non MSA's *	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force**	25,303	17,137	14,873	7,460	8,554	79,172	152,499	73,327	3,081,192
Employed	23,560	15,728	13,908	6,759	7,961	73,255	141,171	67,916	2,882,276
Unemployed	1,743	1,409	965	701	593	5,917	11,328	5,411	198,916
Unemployment rate(%)	6.9	8.2	6.5	9.4	6.9	7.5	7.4	7.4	6.5
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	18,900	13,200	11,500	3,580	5,900	66,400	119,500	53,100	2,732,100
Total Private	13,500	11,200	10,000	2,450	4,600	57,300	99,100	41,800	2,307,600
Goods Producing	3,400	3,400	1,100	600	1,700	17,500	27,700	10,200	620,800
Service Producing	15,500	9,800	10,400	2,980	4,100	48,900	91,800	42,900	2,111,300
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	500	600	500	120	100	2,500	4,300	1,800	104,700
Manufacturing	2,900	2,800	600	480	1,600	15,000	23,400	8,400	516,100
Trade	2,700	2,500	6,300	640	1,000	12,600	25,700	13,100	422,100
Transportation & Utilities	500	300	300	180	100	2,700	4,100	1,400	307,600
Financial Activities	1,100	400	200	180	300	1,900	4,000	2,100	152,700
Education and Health Services	2,300	2,200	900	300	600	8,500	14,800	6,300	362,400
Leisure & Hospitality	1,700	1,300	800	250	500	5,400	9,900	4,500	223,600
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	2,100	1,200	400	300	400	8,700	13,000	4,300	937,400
Total Government	5,370	2,020	1,480	1,130	1,240	9,100	20,300	11,200	424,500
Federal	160	90	100	70	60	300	800	500	28,900
State	2,300	40	80	30	200	500	3,100	2,600	101,400
Local	2,910	1,890	1,310	1,040	970	8,300	16,400	8,100	294,200
Change from one month ago	January 2003								
Civilian Labor Force**	590	-260	480	-70	-20	200	950	700	13,700
Employed	610	-300	380	-100	-70	0	490	500	7,100
Unemployed	-20	50	100	30	40	300	460	200	6,600
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total Nonfarm (NFWS)***	660	-180	410	-10	0	200	1,100	900	10,800
Percent change NFWS last month	3.6%	-1.3%	3.7%	-0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.9%	1.7%	0.4%
Total Private	100	-200	400	-50	0	-200	0	200	-9,700
Goods Producing	0	0	0	-20	0	-400	-400	0	-8,300
Service Producing	600	-200	400	10	0	600	1,500	900	19,100
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	-10	-10	-10	0	0	-100	-100	0	-3,800
Manufacturing	60	-10	-10	-10	-10	-300	-300	0	-4,500
Trade	0	-100	410	-10	-20	200	500	300	-3,600
Transportation & Utilities	0	-10	0	-10	0	0	0	0	-3,500
Financial Activities	10	0	0	-10	10	0	0	0	-500
Education and Health Services	-10	10	10	0	-20	100	100	0	4,400
Leisure & Hospitality	20	-20	-10	-10	-10	-100	-100	0	-2,200
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	20	-70	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,400
Total Government	580	30	20	40	50	400	1,100	700	20,500
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State	650	0	0	0	50	100	800	700	9,500
Local	-70	30	20	50	0	300	300	0	11,000
Change from one year ago	February 2002								
Civilian Labor Force*	260	-710	1,480	120	100	700	1,900	1,300	68,500
Employed	330	-730	520	130	160	1,100	2,400	1,300	74,800
Unemployed	-80	20	80	0	-60	-500	-500	0	-6,300
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.4	0.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.8	-0.6	-0.5	-0.2	0
Total Nonfarm (NFWS)***	-10	-860	1,050	50	50	-100	100	300	14,300
Percent change NFWS last year	-0.1%	-6.1%	10.1%	1.5%	0.8%	-0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%
Total Private	100	-900	1,000	50	0	-200	0	300	11,300
Goods Producing	-100	-200	0	-30	0	-800	-1,200	-400	-14,300
Service Producing	100	-600	1,100	80	100	700	1,400	700	28,600
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	-20	90	-10	-10	0	0	0	100	-4,300
Manufacturing	-90	-320	0	-20	-40	-800	-1,300	-500	-10,000
Trade	-80	-450	860	0	-20	800	1,100	300	-500
Transportation & Utilities	60	30	10	-10	10	-300	-200	100	-2,300
Financial Activities	80	30	10	-10	40	0	100	100	1,000
Education and Health Services	20	20	30	40	40	200	300	100	10,100
Leisure & Hospitality	110	200	140	10	30	-100	400	500	2,900
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	-30	-460	-40	50	0	100	-400	-500	21,600
Total Government	-60	10	50	0	10	100	100	0	3,000
Federal	-20	-10	0	0	0	-50	-100	0	-700
State	50	-10	10	0	10	50	100	100	1,300
Local	-100	20	50	0	-10	90	100	0	2,400

* Five counties, excluding Rock County ** Includes participants residing in area. *** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2002

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/>

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